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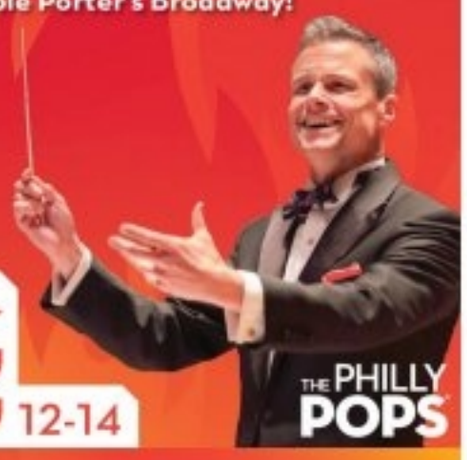
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IT'S A *jungle* OUT THERE

The Philadelphia Zoo is bringing back the beloved Zoo Key and debuting a brand-new exhibit and outdoor dining/ chill-out area this weekend. 4

PHILADELPHIA ZOO

WKND

WELCOME TO WKND

MOLLY GIVEN, PHILADELPHIA FEATURES EDITOR

The Philadelphia Zoo is a staple in the City of Brotherly Love. For years, Philadelphians have flocked to this historic venue to experience one-of-a-kind and up-close animal encounters along with plenty of other fun and exciting activities. Now, the Zoo is bringing back its beloved Zoo Key, which guests can use to "unlock" secrets about animals and learn more about species. Along with the key comes a brand-new "Creatures of Habitat" exhibit and outdoor dining area, The Urban Green. I know where I'll be this weekend. See you at the zoo?
For more, see page 4.

TWEETS

Eagles Fan Problems
@Eagles Fan Problems

Tratior Bryce Harper leads the *undefeated* Philadelphia Phillies over the Nationals.

A pretty embarassing night, DC. But keep your heads up, Redskins football will be back before you know it.

Celebrity and entertainment news is always juicy. Even if you don't keep up with tabloids or regularly check gossip websites, everyone loves their daily dose of the tea. Metro has the scoop on the biggest scandals, shockers, shades and all-around crazy tidbits that have the celebrity world in a tizzy. Here are the biggest gossip stories of this week. MOLLY GIVEN

AMBER ROSE ANNOUNCES SHE'S PREGNANT WITH BABY NO. 2
Rose took to Instagram to make the exciting announcement that she is pregnant again with her boyfriend Alexander "AE" Edwards' child. "@ae4president and I are SUPER excited to announce that we have a Sweet little Baby Boy on the way!" the model captioned a picture of herself getting a sonogram. "P.S Sebastian is soooooo Happy to be a big brother!" Rose wrote. Edwards shared a similar post on his Instagram, writing, "Even when it's dark.. my SON will shine. Thank u baby 4 my greatest gift...I love you." The couple first made their relationship official last October. This will be their first child together.

MAISIE WILLIAMS DROPS A "GAME OF THRONES" BOMBSHELL
Arya Stark is great with a sword, but not so great with secrets... or is she? The young actress appeared on Jimmy Fallon's talk show and when Fallon asked if she would give us any spoilers ahead of the new "GOT" season, the actress said she could not. "HBO sent out a lot of memos recently about saying nothing. ... They would absolutely kill me," Williams said. But then, she did let one thing slip: "During shooting, like, the final days were really, like, emotional, saying goodbye to all of the cast. Because when I found out that Arya died in like the second episode, I was—" she said, before stopping. The audience was blown away but only a few short minutes later, Williams and Fallon revealed the whole thing was an elaborate April Fools' joke.

TWO BRAVO OGS FACE OFF
Kyle Richards and Lisa Vanderpump have been staples on Bravo's "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" for almost a decade. They have always had a rocky relationship, but after Tuesday's episode, it seems as though their friendship is officially over. Richards wrote about the incident in her Bravo blog: "The women wanted to know if I thought Lisa was capable of having this story leaked. I grappled with taking the easy way out OR telling the truth. I am not a liar. Of all the things people may have accused me of, lying is not one of them. (At least not up until this point.) While Lisa is my friend and I am the closest to her, these women are also my friends. If they weren't my friends, maybe I could have taken a different stance. But they are, and I could not lie to them."

YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

Looking for some fun and unique things to do in Philly this weekend? We've got you covered. Here are 10 fun things to do in Philly this weekend.

ARTS & CULTURE

2019 Environmental Film Festival

This year's festival will feature 54 inspiring and engaging new environmentally-focused features and shorts from all around the globe, all aimed to bring awareness, entertain and pique the interest of everyone who attends. The EFF will also feature a 10-minute VR experience for guests to take an immersive journey to Northern Kenya called "My Africa." The festival has become a staple to kick off Earth Month and it's a fun and exciting way to celebrate Planet Earth. **April 5-7, various times, Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut St., prices vary, philaenvirofilmfest.org**

The Unconventional Wellness Festival

This wellness festival is exactly as it sounds: unconventional. Various vendors will be set up and offering different products and unique services including massage therapists, acupuncturists, organic skincare brands, essential oils, CBD products, healthy and nourishing foods and much more. There will also be plenty of interesting seminars, speakers and even a pop-up alpaca photo booth.
April 7, noon-5 p.m., The Met Philadelphia, 858 N. Broad St., $10, yogahivephilly.com

SHOPPING

Clover Market: Chestnut Hill

Head to Clover Market this weekend to check out all of the interesting, unique and one-of-a-kind spring vendors they have in their lineup. Attendees can find everything from collectibles, vintage jewelry, clothing and much more. There will also be delicious food vendors as well to help fuel all shoppers and marketgoers. **April 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 25 W. Highland Ave., free, theclovermarket.com**

MUSIC

GETTY IMAGES

Tori Kelly

The "American Idol" alum is bringing her talents to the City of Brotherly Love for one night only at The Fillmore. Kelly will be performing some of her greatest hits including "Should've Been Us," "Nobody Love," "Paper Hearts," "I Was Made for Loving You," "Hollow" and much more. **April 5, 8:30-11 p.m., The Fillmore, 29 E. Allen St., $35, thefillmorephilly.com**

FOOD & DRINKS

KQ & Friends Co-Operatives Happy Hour

Head to the upstairs patio bar at Kensington Quarters to join in on this exciting happy hour that will feature six flights of wine from co-operative winemakers. KQ invited friends from local cooperatives to share their experiences and their enticing samples. Executive Chef Matt Harper will be serving up some mouthwatering small bites to pair with the wine as well.
April 5, 5:30 p.m., Kensington Quarters, 1310 Frankford Ave., $45, kensingtonquarters.com

Sushi Making Class

Learn how to make your very own sushi rolls during this amateur cooking class with Philadelphia's Queen of Sushi, Madame Saito. You can use this class to gear up for the Amateur Sushi Competition (on April 11) or the Subaru Sushi Samurai of the Year Contest at Sakura Sunday (on April 14). The Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival of Greater Philadelphia is hosting the class. Philadelphians have the option of different classes at different times throughout the week starting Sunday, April 7. Email madamsaito@gmail.com or call 215-815-8266 to reserve your spot. **April 7, 6 p.m., HeadHouse, 122 Lombard St., $65**

GOING OUT

Treno's First Friday

Treno's popular monthly patio party is continuing with tasty bites and plenty of delicious refreshments. Guests who attend can indulge in $6 seasonal light bites (like a grilled-chicken-and-artichoke flatbread), special cocktails and a featured beer. Local musician Matt Spitko will be providing the entertainment for the evening during this fun-filled happy hour. **April 5, 5-10 p.m., Treno Pizza Bar, 233 Haddon Ave., Westmont, NJ, trenopizzabar.com**

First Friday

On the first Friday of each month, Old City's galleries, studios, shops and restaurants open their doors for First Friday, a unique and memorable exhibition of the neighborhood's vibrant arts scene. All of the galleries, studios, shops, bars and restaurants participating are offering drink specials, delicious food, live music and much more. **April 5, 6-10 p.m., various locations, Old City, prices vary, oldcitydistrict.org**

FAMILY

Hometeam Hoops 3-vs.-3 Basketball Tournament

This Cherry Hill-based group is dedicated to bringing awareness and support to individuals and families who are dealing with opioid addiction, and they are hosting a round-robin tournament, followed by a playoff game, to help their cause. Guests can purchase tickets for a number of raffles while there. All other donations will go to the Penn Foundation.
April 6, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Cherry Hill High School West (Jones Gym), 2101 Chapel Ave. W., Cherry Hill, NJ, west.chclc.org

MUSIC

Muse

These British rockers know how to put on a show, and they are bringing their electrifying act to Philly this weekend. Expect a lot of pyrotechnics, lasers, theatrics, dancing and much more. Muse will be performing some of their greatest hits including "Uprising," "Knights of Cydonia," "Time Is Running Out," "Hysteria" and many more. You can catch Muse onstage at the Wells Fargo Center. **April 7, 7:30-11 p.m., Wells Fargo Center, 3601 S. Broad St., $39-$94, wellsfargocenterphilly.com**

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"Creatures of Habitat" is open now KORY AVERSA

A roaring good time

The Philadelphia Zoo is debuting a new exhibit and outdoor dining destination this weekend.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

The Philadelphia Zoo is known for being quite impressive. It's the oldest Zoo in the country, houses nearly 1,300 rare and endangered animals, is home to the world's first animal travel and exploration trail system Zoo360 and is globally known as one of the most renowned zoological societies. But now the Zoo is taking their impressive repertoire up a notch with a new interactive animal adventure and a brand new outdoor dining destination. It's all going to be a roaring good time.

The Zoo's newest exhibit, "Creatures of Habitat: A Gazillion-Piece Animal Adventure" presented by WSDS Bank is open now until September 30th. This exciting new exhibit features 12 LEGO brick vignettes showcasing over 30 life-sized animals all inspired from the animals living in the Zoo. Each vignette is intricately fashioned from over 350,000 LEGO bricks and were all created by Artist Sean Kenney. According to the release, each "creature" shares the issues that animals are facing around the world today and spotlights the heroes working to save them. Along with the new exhibit, the Philadelphia Zoo has also brought back the beloved Zoo key presented by 6ABC. The Zoo key unlocks talking audiobooks that tell secrets and stories about animals featured throughout the Zoo.

Guests can delve into the world of the African Lion, Micronesian Kingfisher, Harlequin Frog, Bornean Orangutan, Chameleon, Western Lowland Gorilla, Golden Lion Tamarin, Diamond-Backed Terrapin, Polar Bear, Humboldt Penguin and The Rainforest with "Creatures of Habitat".

When you use your key (get it for $3 from the Zoo), you unlock so much more than you could ever imagine- it's truly a fun, educational and unique experience that you can't get anywhere else. The Zoo Key is an amazing Philadelphia Zoo tradition that dates back over decades, many Philadelphians still have their original keys from years ago. Now the keys will feature red and purple lions, bears and gorillas. Guests can either use their old keys or purchase a new one to join in on the adventure. Deluxe and contributor members will receive one free key per household while Zoo members will receive a 10% discount on additional Zoo keys when purchased at any retail location throughout the Zoo.

Adventuring through "Creatures of Habitat" will make anyone a little hungry. You're in luck, the Philadelphia Zoo also just opened their new dining mecca, The Urban Green. This new open-air food marketplace and chill zone was designed by Groundswell Design Group; Groundswell created some of the most notable outdoor activity areas in the city including Spruce Street Harbor Park.

The Urban Green will feature three food trucks including The Fry Bowl serving up some fried favorites, Roof to Leaf offering vegetarian-based fare and Pressed, which features paninis and wraps. This new hotspot will feature over 200 seats, a gorgeous mural, chill zones for all and even a vertical farm. The farm will provide locally grown and sustainable sources of food for all of the Zoo's animals to continue to ensure their well being.

The Urban Green will be open 7 days a week from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Philadelphia Zoo is located at 3400 W. Girard Ave., for more information and to purchase tickets visit philadelphiazoo.org

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Fun things to do in Atlantic City this weekend

See a magical comedy show, boogie during a disco revival and more.

MADELINE PRESLAND

Don Felder. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Get ready for plenty of music tributes and comedy in Atlantic City. The busy Jersey Shore destination is known for casinos and beaches, and is also home to some of the best venues on the East Coast to see top touring acts. Here are four shows you shouldn't miss in AC this weekend.

Don Felder

Former Eagles member and legendary guitarist Don Felder is coming to the Hard Rock's Sound Waves venue this Saturday. He's the musical genius behind some of the Eagles' top hits, including "Hotel California," "One of These Nights" and "Good Day in Hell." His show on Saturday kicks off a tour celebrating the release of his new solo album, "American Rock 'n' Roll." Expect to hear plenty of tracks from the new album as well as the classics. He's in Atlantic City for just one night — don't miss your chance to grab tickets. *April 6, 8 p.m., Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ, $29-$50, hardrockhotels.com*

Justin Willman

Magician and comedian Justin Willman can make you laugh and make things disappear. The host of "Cupcake Wars" and "Magic for Humans" brings his solo stand-up comedy and magic show the Music Box at the Borgata. Willman is known for tricking the skeptics, but he doesn't think he's a wizard. It's just an illusion and he might reveal some of his secrets. *April 6, 9 p.m., The Borgata, 1 Borgata Way, Atlantic City,*

Justin Willman performs onstage at Team Coco House during the New York Comedy Festival.

NJ, $29-$39, theborgata.com

"Dancin' Through the Decades"
Experience a musical timeline from the best of Motown to modern hits. Singer, dancer and choreographer Frankie Z dazzles in "Dancin' Through the Decades." The former boy-band star is bringing exciting choreography, glamorous costumes and a live band to the stage at Superstar Theater. Frankie Z's performances are inspired by George Michael and Justin Timberlake. A must-see act if you're looking for fun things to do in Atlantic City this weekend.
April 6, 8 p.m., Resorts Hotel and Casino, 1133 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ, $30-$40, resortsac.com

"Disco Live"
The '70s are back during "Disco Live" at Sound Waves. Relive the best of the era or get your first disco education during this theatrical tribute show, which features music, dancing and all the disco fashion. Live singers cover classics by the Bee Gees, ABBA, Michael Jackson and Donna Summer. Feel free to dress up and get in the spirit or just enjoy the show on Sunday.
April 7, 4 p.m., Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ, $29-$50, hardrockhotels.com

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Understanding the penalties for selling and possessing marijuana illegally in Pennsylvania

As the state of Pennsylvania has legalized the use and sale of medical marijuana, the debate around whether or not it will cut down on or create more illegal sales of the substance has been on some people's minds. But while there is little evidence that this may be happening in the Commonwealth, the state has some serious laws in place for both possession and intent to sell medical marijuana without the proper credentials.

The current laws around unlawful possession of marijuana in Pennsylvania state that by possession of under 30g of marijuana, you will be charged with a misdemeanor and could face up to a maximum of 30 days of incarceration and a maximum fine of $500. With possession of more than 30g, you could be charged with a misdemeanor and face up to one year of prison time with a maximum fine of $5,000.

First-time offenders are eligible for conditional releases, but anyone who rakes up multiple charges could see their fines or prison time doubling.

Possession of hashish or concentrated marijuana can be a little different in terms of quantity. Possession of 8g and under can result in a misdemeanor with a maximum of 30 days' incarceration and a maximum of $500 in fines. More than 8g could also bring a charge of a misdemeanor with up to a year of prison time and $5,000 in fines. However, if you are caught manufacturing hashish or any sort of concentrated marijuana substance, it can result in a felony charge with between two-and-a-half and five years in prison and up to $15,000 in fines.

Things get a little more serious when it comes to sale or distribution of illegally obtained or cultivated marijuana in Pennsylvania. Getting caught attempting to sell 30g or less could result in getting charged with a misdemeanor with a maximum fine of $500 and up to 30 days of incarceration. If you are caught with more than 30g, the charges will be much more severe, resulting in a felony with up to two-and-a-half to three years of prison time and a maximum fine of $15,000. If the person selling mari-

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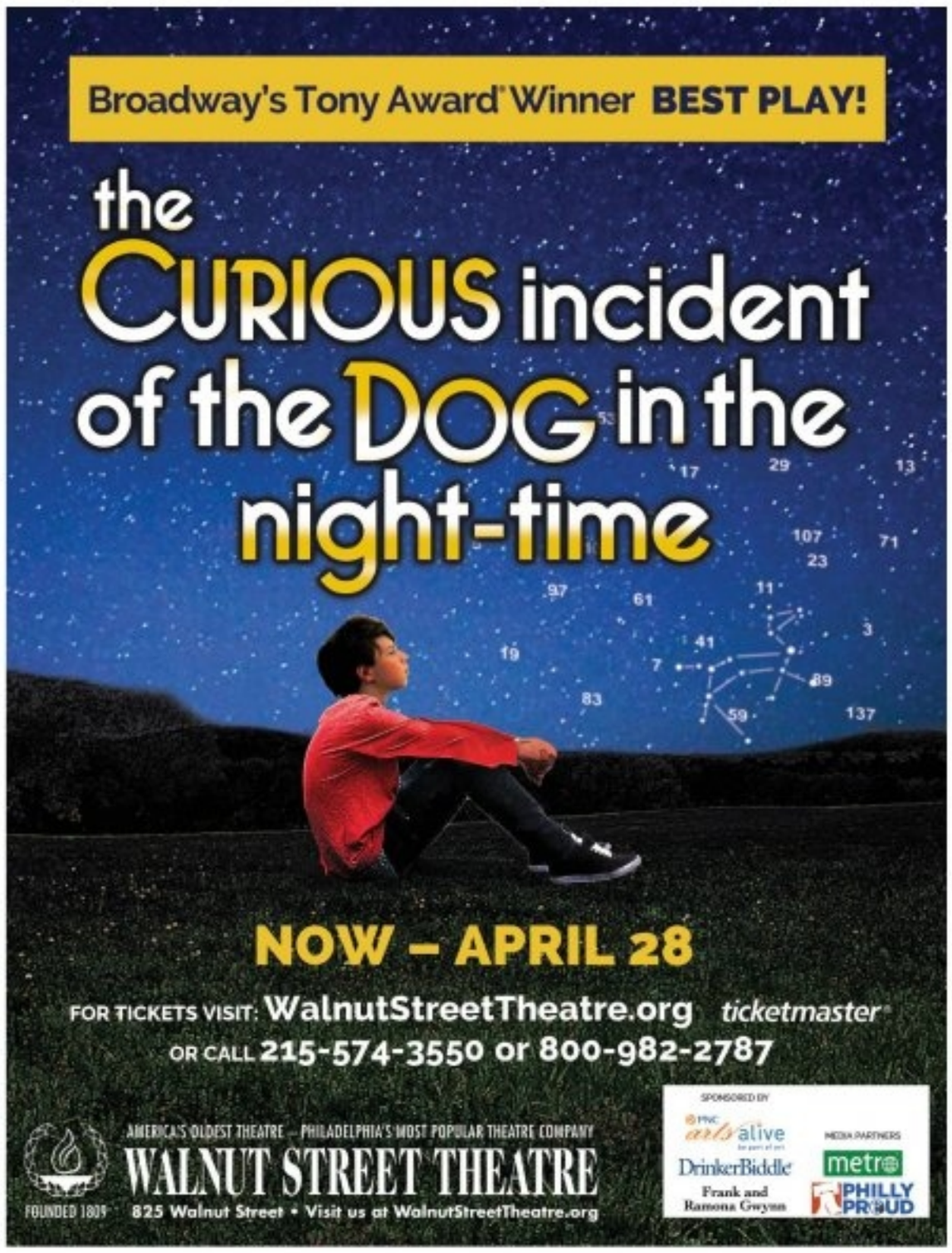
juana is caught within 1,000 feet of a school — or 250 feet of a playground — they will automatically receive two to four years in prison. Furthermore, if the person is caught deliberately selling marijuana to a minor, those charges can be doubled.

Pennsylvania residents with medical marijuana cards are expected to understand these laws since the substance has not yet been decriminalized like many other surrounding states. According to code § 1151.34 titled "Packaging and labeling of medical marijuana products," all medical marijuana must stay in its original packaging and must have the grower's permit number and address listed on the label.

In terms of flying across state lines with medical marijuana, while many states have legalized it, TSA agents are still trained to treat it as an illegal substance if it is not accompanied by the correct paperwork. However, as reported by TIME, in 2015 only 29 of 54 million passengers were apprehended by TSA agents for marijuana possession at Denver International Airport. This is because agents are no longer actively searching for marijuana in luggage. But if they find it, they will act accordingly. **PAT KING**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LUCKY FINDS FOR THE HOME

Fun things to do in Philly this month

5

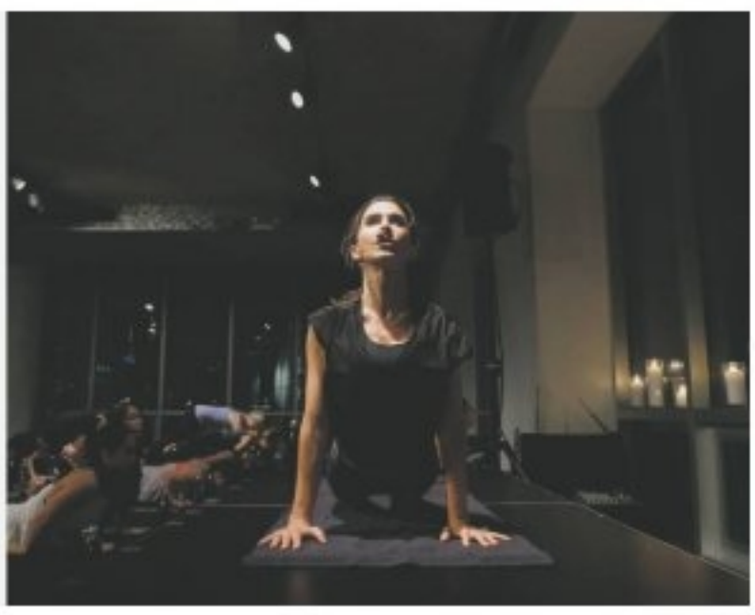
Tori Kelly
April 5

The "American Idol" alum is bringing her acoustic tour to Philly and will be performing some of her latest hits. **April 5, 8:30-11 p.m., The Fillmore, 29 E. Allen St., $35**

7

The Unconventional Wellness Festival
April 7

This unique festival features an alpaca photo booth, CBD vendors, '90s-music yoga and much, much more. **April 7, noon-5 p.m., The Met Philadelphia, 858 N. Broad St., $49-$59**



ALL PHOTOS GETTY

7

Muse
April 7

The popular British rock band is hitting the stage in Philly this month and bringing their unique show to life for one night only. **April 7, 7:30 p.m., Wells Fargo Center, 3601 S. Broad St., $39-$94**

8

Kombucha Cocktail-Making Class
April 8

These cocktails may not be alcoholic but they are fizzy, refreshing and extra-delicious. **April 8, 6-8 p.m., Free Library of Phila., 1901 Vine St., $15**

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9

Justin Timberlake
April 9

Illness may have postponed his tour, but JT is bringing his A-game when he hits the stage in Philly this month. **April 9, 7:30-11 p.m., Wells Fargo Center, 3601 S. Broad St., $49-$250**

12

2019 Philly Showcase of Wine, Beer and Cheese
April 12

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Funeral held for Nick Flacco, hours after slaying suspect arraigned

The police official's son was laid to rest Thursday, the day after a suspect's dramatic arrest.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

ISTOCK

A funeral was held Thursday for Nick Flacco, the son of a high-ranking Philadelphia police official, hours after a suspect in his shooting death was arraigned.

Early Thursday morning, 19-year-old Tyquan "Fats" Atkinson, was charged with murder, criminal conspiracy and firearms offenses. He is being held without bail.

At noon, Flacco's funeral was held at St. Albert the Great Church in Lower Moreland. A visitation and mass were followed by his burial.

At an event Wednesday night, Police Commissioner Richard Ross told ABC 6 the shooting was "deeply sad for all of us. We're all very sad. We can't find the words."

Atkinson was arrested late Wednesday at a Delaware County strip mall after a four-day manhunt, CBS 2 reported. Police cornered Atkinson on the roof of a Chester business, using a fire ladder to get him down.

Investigators say Atkinson shot and killed Flacco on Saturday night at FDR Park, where Flacco and his friends were celebrating the Phillies' win.

According to police, fights broke out among women in the park, and one woman threatened to "call her man." When Atkinson showed up, Flacco's friends dared him to shoot, believing his gun was fake. Atkinson then shot Flacco, the son of an Internal Affairs commander who was home from college celebrating his 20th birthday.

"We're all very sad. We can't find the words."

Richard Ross, Philadelphia police commissioner

Flacco was taken to Presbyterian Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead from a gunshot wound to the chest.

The Penn State student had planned to join the Marine Corps in the fall.

$36.5K

A $36,500 award had been offered for information leading to an arrest.

Commissioner Ross said tips led to the suspect's capture. "This is not magical. What helps us most is human intelligence," he said. "People picking up the phone to tell us what happened, and in this case again, we're just deeply saddened by all the events that transpired."

A $36,500 award had been offered for information leading to an arrest.

Flacco's was the 80th murder in Philadelphia so far this year. At the same time in 2018, 72 people had been killed.

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Philadelphia eases up on turnstile jumpers, slashes fines

GETTY IMAGES

Philadelphia's main transit system has quietly eased up on turnstile jumpers this year, slashing fines and decriminalizing fare evasion.

WHYY reported the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority put the policy in place Jan. 14. The change reduces tickets from $300 to $25. Repeat offenders get four strikes before they're banned from SEPTA's trains, buses and trolleys.

A SEPTA spokeswoman told PhillyVoice the change is meant to ease the financial burden of fines and to free up transit police to focus on serious crimes.

Going after fare beaters was a pillar of the "Broken Windows" theory of the early 1990s. It argued that ignoring smaller crimes only cleared the way for bigger ones to happen. Critics say the strategy became a pretense to unfairly target poor minorities.

Manhattan adopted a similar policy in 2018.

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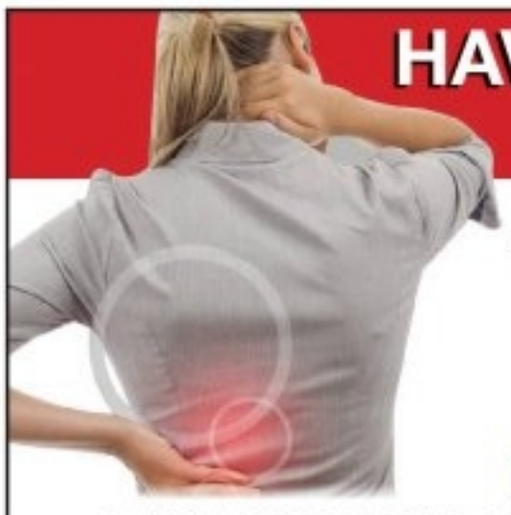

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Final Four preview: Texas Tech–Michigan State

Look hard at the Under.

HARRY MAYES

Harry Mayes is a sports betting expert and a longtime sports radio voice in Philadelphia. Mayes currently hosts a talk radio show on 97.3 ESPN in South Jersey.

GETTY IMAGES

TWEET OF THE DAY

Cousin Sal
@TheCousinSal

It's weird - you don't ever hear any praise for Coach Izzo... oh wait...you do. Anyway, all true. #MarchMadness

What is left after an exciting Elite Eight weekend may not appeal to CBS in viewership ratings, but it presents some intriguing matchups if you are purely a college hoops junkie, like me.

I'm drawn to the nightcap, upstart 3-seeded Texas Tech, with no rostered players in ESPN 100 as recruits, taking on tourney fixture Michigan State.

Sparty is a 2.5- to 3-point favorite across the board and the total sits around 132.5. Tough defense is a huge part of both teams' identities; in fact, the Red Raiders are the top-ranked team in the country in defensive efficiency. Neither team runs to a high pace, with Sparty averaging 70 possessions per game and Tech a notch slower at 69. Each team is averaging 72-73.5 ppg offensively in this tournament, while surrendering anywhere from 57 to 63 ppg. The best matchup to watch will be Sparty's tough-minded point guard Cassius Winston go up against the long and lanky Jarrett Culver for Tech. Winston has been one of my favorite players over the years and in this tournament, but this matchup could present real problems as Culver has the size advantage, which will help defend the perimeter. Culver is also listed as the most efficient player in CBB, according to kenpom.com. Tech is trending 63 percent to the Under on games with four-plus days' rest and 75 percent to the Under in this tourney and non-conference matchups. I am not seeing as drastic an Under play as was on display when Tech played Michigan in Sweet 16, as the game was tied at 6 with under 10 minutes to play in the first half. But we can hope! Tech's defense needs to keep McQuaid and Winston in check from beyond the arc and Sparty will need to honor Tech's Italian 3-point marksman, Davide Moretti, who shoots it at a 46.3 percent clip. The lines on this game have remained quite stable and I anticipate a sluggish start offensively, and then the defense to really settle in as both coaches take control of their squads. I'm looking for a slow-paced, defensive slugfest here, with a play on the Under. For the record, Tech was my only Final Four survivor in my bracket…but nobody cares.

Pick: Texas Tech vs. Michigan State, UNDER the total

Best Bets

DOC'S SPORTS SERVICE

DOC SPORTS
@BigKatSports

GETTY IMAGES

Minnesota Twins vs. Philadelphia Phillies
Friday, 7 PM

We've got the Phillies here in a nice bounce-back after the pen couldn't hold a lead in a loss to Washington on Wednesday. They have posted a perfect 4-0 record in their last four games following an off day and they are 5-0 in their last five games at CBP. The Twins, on the other hand, are just 1-6 in Jake Odorizzi's last seven road starts and they have lost 11-of-16 versus a team with a winning record. Throw in the fact that the Phillies are 4-1 in their last five versus a team from the AL Central and we're going to lay the 1.5 runs with them here to get what we think will be an easy home win in Philly on Friday evening.

THE PICK:
Phillies -151

Sports betting 101: How to bet on baseball

Betting on baseball continues to grow quickly and is expected to be a $1.5 billion regulated betting market for the 2019 season. The main reason why betting on baseball is becoming popular is the vast frequency of regular-season games (2430 in MLB vs. 256 in the NFL).

There are a variety of bets available to make on a baseball game, but backing a team on the moneyline is the easiest baseball bet to understand as you simply pick one team to win.

In each MLB game there is a favorite and an underdog. The favorite is the team that the oddsmakers project to win. Their odds are represented by a minus sign followed by a three-digit number (Phillies -150). The underdog is the team the oddsmakers project to lose and their team odds are represented by a plus sign followed by a three-digit number (Mets +130).

Here's how the betting works in this example. Bet/risk $150 on Phillies (the favorite) to win $100 or bet/risk $100 on the Mets (the underdog) to win $130.

The sportsbook oddsmaker uses a variety of data and stats to set the line, however baseball odds are predominately determined by the starting pitchers.

For instance, when a pitcher like the Phillies' Aaron Nola (with a record of 17-6 in the 2018 season) is the starting pitcher, the Phillies will most often be the favorite.

Enjoy this upcoming baseball season and swing by your favorite sportsbook on the way to the ballpark to bet on your favorite team … and pitcher.

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Virginia vs. Auburn and much, much more

Weekend Tickets looks at the Phillies, Sixers and gives out an early take on The Masters.

ANTHONY GARGANO

Anthony Gargano is a sports radio host on @97.5TheFanatic in Philadelphia and on FOX Sports Radio.

Weekend Tickets takes a look at the Virginia-versus-Auburn Final Four showdown and some Philly-related picks for a jam-packed sports weekend.

Virginia (-5.5) over Auburn

What a run it has been by the Pearls of Auburn — slaying Kansas, North Carolina and Kentucky. The Tigers are an underrated defensive team and they put it on display against Kentucky, denying the Cats' post advantage. They are deep — using a nine-man rotation — and can beat anyone in the country ... except Virginia. The Cavs are on a magical run from historic first round out to champion. They turn the ball over only nine times a game, they make their free throws, and can hit the 3.

Pick: Cavs in a close one — they cover from the line at the end

Virginia (+140) to win it all ... is the bet I really like.

It's in stone.

PHILLIES

The Twins come to town for an early inter-league series in a rare matchup.

You can still get the Twins at +240 to win the AL Central. I do not like the Indians. Their lineup is noticeably weaker from a year ago — especially without Brantley and Encarnacion. And there is already talk that Cleveland will not sign all-world shortstop Francisco Lindor to a mega contract. How will that affect him and Jose Ramirez? Meanwhile, the Twins added Nelson Cruz to big bat Eddie Rosario and Jorge Polanco.

Here are the pitching matchups for the series — and they're not that favorable.

Jake Odorizzi vs. Nick Pivetta
Michael Pineda vs. Jake Arrieta
Jose Berrios vs. Zach Eflin

GETTY IMAGES

I like the Phillies Friday night if they don't get rained out ... Pineda looked great in a win over Cleveland, allowing only one hit in four innings with five strikeouts. Should be a good duel with Jake going for the Phillies. If they get to the pen, Phils will take the game ... Berrios is a legit ace and I can't back Eflin against him even with the Phillies hit bats.

SIXERS

The playoffs can't get here soon enough. There are just three games left, including Saturday's game in Chicago against the lowly Bulls. The Bulls are playing a lineup that includes Shaq Harrison, our old friend Luwawu-Cabarrot and that Walter Lemon Jr — but the Sixers have lost twice recently to the lowly Hawks and look very disinterested.

Save your bankroll for the playoffs.

EARLY MASTERS PICKS

We'll dive into the tournament next week but ... JUSTIN ROSE to finish in the top five: He has played at Augusta 13 times and finished in the top 10 FIVE times, including runner-up in 2015 and 2017. At 12-1, he's also worth a unit to win it — though for all his consistency, Rose remains stuck at one major title.

NO STINKIN' RAHM-COM HERE

Jon Rahm can handle all the drama at Augusta. The Spaniard finished a solo fourth last year and has the chops to win at 16-1.

Sports on TV Highlights

7:00 pm	**MLB Baseball** Minnesota Twins at Philadelphia Phillies	NBC
2:00 pm	**MLB Baseball** Seattle Mariners vs. Chicago White Sox	MLB Network
7:00 pm	**MLB Baseball** Miami Marlins vs. Atlanta Braves	ESPN+
8:00 pm	**NBA Basketball** Boston Celtics vs. Indiana Pacers	ESPN
8:00 pm	**MLB Baseball** Oakland Athletics vs. Houston Astros	MLB Network
10:30 pm	**NBA Basketball** Portland Trail Blazers vs. Denver Nuggets	ESPN

Final Four betting preview

MetroBet breaks down the 2019 NCAA men's basketball Final Four.

AUBURN TIGERS VS. VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

Moneyline: *Tigers +210, Cavaliers -250*
Betting Total: *130.5 points*

Auburn was able to beat Kentucky, a fellow SEC team, in the Elite Eight without forward Chuma Okeke (12 points, 6.8 rebounds per game), but they may not have the same luck against an unfamiliar foe in Virginia. Without Okeke's production down low, senior guard Bryce Brown (16 points per game) and company will have to be at their absolute best from beyond the arc.

The Cavaliers excel at shutting down the 3-ball attack, as their defense is ranked fourth in opponent 3-point percentage (28.7). In fact, Virginia's defense was first in the country at 55.4 points allowed per game while playing in the ACC. The Tigers' defense can't compare, as they're 90th by points allowed per game (68.9) and 152nd in 3-point percentage against (34.5).

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS V. MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

Moneyline: *Red Raiders +130, Spartans -150*
Betting Total: *132.5 points*

The Texas Tech Red Raiders and the Michigan State Spartans look about as evenly matched as two schools can be as they collide at U.S. Bank Stadium for the second Final Four game of the evening. For those intent on having a spread wager in this one, it seems wise to take the points with Texas Tech. But the best bet in the late game may be the Under. The Red Raiders have gone below the total in three of their four tournament wins, eclipsing the Over by just four points in their 75-69 victory over Gonzaga (which had the nation's top-ranked offense this season). The Spartans have gone Under in five of their last six contests.

ROBERT CRISCOLA

VSiN DAILY LINE

MLB

MINNESOTA TWINS +141 VS. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES -151

MIAMI MARLINS +174 VS. ATLANTA BRAVES -185

SEATTLE MARINERS -109 VS. CHICAGO WHITE SOX -101

MEN'S CBB (SATURDAY)

AUBURN TIGERS +5.5 VS. VIRGINIA CAVALIERS -5.5

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS +3 VS. MICHIGAN STATE -3

NBA

BOSTON CELTICS -1.5 VS. INDIANA PACERS

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS VS. DENVER NUGGETS -6

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What Sixers are getting in Greg Monroe

Philly is bringing on the veteran big man for the playoff run.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

The Sixers are signing veteran center Greg Monroe ahead of the playoffs. GETTY IMAGES

The Philadelphia 76ers are signing veteran center Greg Monroe, according to multiple reports this week, in an attempt to add more depth at the center position.

This will be the sixth team that the 28-year-old Monroe will be playing for in his nine NBA seasons. He's played for four of them over the past two years.

He's been unable to make much of a mark this season during brief stints with the Toronto Raptors and Boston Celtics, two of the other top teams in the Eastern Conference. In 40 games, he's averaging 4.7 points and four rebounds in an average of just 10.7 minutes per game.

It's far off his career numbers of 13.2 and 8.3 rebounds per game, mostly accrued during his five-year stint with the Detroit Pistons.

Monroe will be eligible for the postseason, which will provide an important veteran presence to a younger frontcourt.

He's appeared in 17 playoff games over the last two seasons, six with the Milwaukee Bucks in 2017 before accruing 11 with the Celtics last year. All of those appearances came as a backup.

That will be the 6-foot-11 big man's exact role with the Sixers behind star center Joel Embiid, who has been used sparingly down the stretch as the organization attempts to manage his load ahead of the playoffs.

There is no indication that he has any injury issues after recently missing a month with knee problems.

Monroe provides somewhat of a more versatile upgrade in the frontcourt for the 76ers over Boban Marjanovic. The 7-foot-3 Serbian has averaged just six minutes of play in seven career postseason games and there are concerns about his ability to keep up with some of the Eastern Conference's better big men this spring.

Monroe isn't necessarily the most athletic big man, but he has shown an ability to cut to the basket with purpose while adding some physicality, a much-needed trait in what is expected to be a heated playoff run.

The Sixers will be hoping that the new signing can provide some valuable minutes behind Embiid, especially if the recent rest days are a hint that not all might be right with the All-Star.

In order to make room for Monroe, the 76ers will waive Justin Patton, who has been unable to stay healthy since being drafted 16th overall in 2017.

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Metro Philadelphia's 3 stars of the week

BRYCE HARPER

Bryce Harper could not have had a much better debut week with the Phillies.

The All-Star outfielder is off to a scorching start in 2019, batting .500 with three home runs and five RBI over his first five games of the season.

It included a no-doubt bomb on Tuesday night against his former team, the Washington Nationals, in D.C. where an emphatic bat-flip might have just sparked one of the fiercest rivalries in the National League.

If there were any doubts that Harper wasn't worth that $330 million deal, he's making a strong showing to prove those detractors wrong. Only 10 more years of this, Phillies fans.

MAIKEL FRANCO

While Harper was stealing most of the headlines throughout Opening Week, the rest of the Phillies were having an offensive surge of their own to fuel a red-hot start.

Franco has been benefitting from the extra protection in the Phillies lineup this season and is off to a huge start.

Over his first five games, the third baseman was batting .400 with three home runs and eight RBI.

It's pretty hard to believe that the 26-year-old was facing the possibility of losing his starting job to Scott Kingery.

If he keeps up this ridiculous kind of play, there's no way Gabe Kapler is taking him out of the lineup.

JAKE ARRIETA

Heading into the 2019 season, one of the Phillies' major concerns was the state of its pitchers, especially within the starting rotation.

Behind staff ace Aaron Nola, who finished third in the NL Cy Young voting last year, Philadelphia's staff was leaving much to be desired. It put a premium on veteran righty Jake Arrieta's season as the former Cy Young Award winner had problems finding his form in his first year with the Phillies in 2018.

He got off to a promising start on Mar. 31, holding the Atlanta Braves to just one run on three hits in six innings of work with six strikeouts. However, six walks were alarming. Regardless, a 1.50 ERA to start the year is just what the Phils need.

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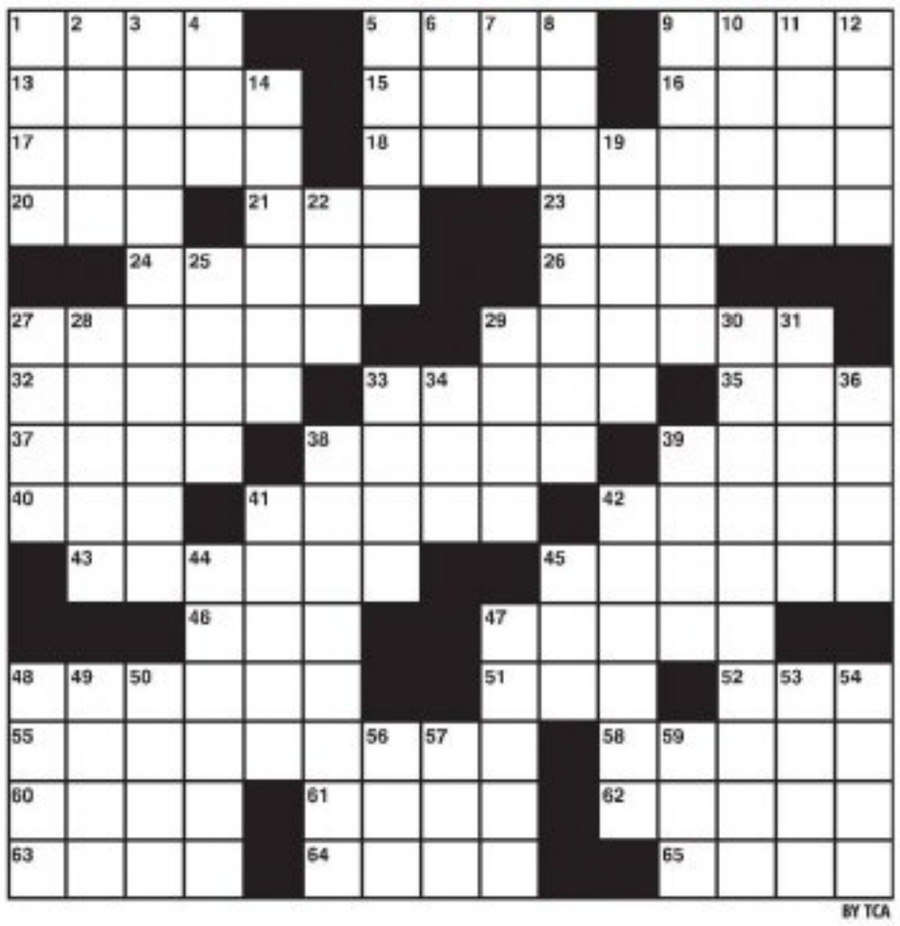

BY TCA

ACROSS

1 Word after wine or baker's
5 Tiny particle
9 Part of the foot
13 Sir __ Newton
15 Have a meal
16 Reign
17 One of the five senses
18 Surgery
20 Santa __, CA
21 Massage
23 Adheres
24 Light color
26 "For __ a jolly good fellow..."
27 Sound heard near a pool
29 Kilt pattern
32 Fill with joy
33 19th-century U.S. president
35 Portable bed
37 Pantry stackables
38 __ Ste. Marie
39 Threesome
40 __-tac-toe
41 Glow
42 "__ Were the Days"
43 Become dim
45 Molded
46 Cake ingredient
47 Religion
48 Author Louisa May __
51 This month: abbr.
52 One __ kind; unique thing
55 Mentor
58 Not smashed
60 "Who Wants __ a Millionaire"
61 Houston school
62 Contaminate
63 Remain
64 Collections
65 Passing crazes

DOWN

1 Meter maid of song
2 As wise __ owl
3 Classic Humphrey Bogart film
4 Actress Dennings
5 Clay brick
6 Money left for the waiter
7 Late bedtime
8 Storekeeper
9 Manet or Monet
10 Destroy
11 Wooden shoe
12 Chickens' moms
14 Shade of red
19 On the ball
22 Word of disgust
25 Breaks a fast
27 Small religious group
28 School uniform skirt pattern
29 Story
30 Fear of heights
31 Clamor
33 Put on weight
34 Baseball score
36 __ the line; obeyed
38 Dog __; kennels
39 "Be __ as it may..."
41 Short one-act plays
42 Need for water
44 Mickey or Andy
45 Gullible fellow
47 Airline prices
48 Play divisions
49 Money, slangily
50 Havana's land
53 __ off; keep at bay
54 __ and crafts
56 Be dishonest
57 Sept.'s follower
59 Clumsy fellow

metro.us/horoscopes

♈ **Aries** Don't lose sight of who you are, what you want and how capable you are of taking charge.

♉ **Taurus** A reserved attitude will serve you well, especially when dealing with government agencies, financial, medical institutions, or legal matters.

♊ **Gemini** Don't let someone from your past disrupt your day. An exaggerated opinion will lead you in the wrong direction.

♋ **Cancer** Put greater emphasis on how you earn your living and handle your money.

♌ **Leo** When opportunity knocks, be ready to take advantage. An open discussion with someone will provide you with valuable insight.

♍ **Virgo** Don't get angry; take the necessary action to counter any negative thing in your life. Controlling a situation is better than ignoring what's going on around you.

♎ **Libra** Do your due diligence before you make a decision. Don't expect everyone to like the choice you make.

♏ **Scorpio** A change at home will add to your comfort and enhance your relationship with someone special.

♐ **Sagittarius** Listen to someone, but don't be gullible. When in doubt, gather the facts and act only when you are certain that what you are doing is right.

♑ **Capricorn** Try something new, or use your skills differently to discover something that can be life-altering.

♒ **Aquarius** Trust in your ability to get things done. A positive change will take place if you put your energy into making physical adjustments that suit your needs.

♓ **Pisces** Offering or accepting help will lead to emotional problems. Don't interfere or let others meddle. Making or listening to suggestions and being nonjudgmental are in your best interest. EUGENIA LAST

metro.us/sudoku

	3		1		7		6	5
9					6	2		
	2	1						
					2		1	
		6	4		5	8		
	9		6					
						5	3	
		5	7					9
3	6		2		9		7	

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